

MARFORRES

FOCUS ON THE FORCE

Molly rededicated

Lance Cpl. Catherin T. Randall

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS — Patrick F. Taylor, chairman, president and CEO, Taylor Energy Company, New Orleans, La., presented a miniature Molly Marine statue to Diana Dils, national commandant, Marine Corps League, on behalf of the Marine Corps League, during a Molly Marine rededication ceremony Aug. 16, at the Molly Marine Plaza, New Orleans, La.

“This statue is rededicated to all women who have earned the eagle, globe and anchor,” retired Marine Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter, co-chair of the Molly Marine Restoration Society said.

The ceremony included a patriotic selection of music, played by the Marine Corps Band New Orleans, La.

Marines from Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans, La., nation-wide members of the Marine Corps League, former Marines and New Orleans residents gathered in the plaza to rededicate the statue which was restored through the efforts of The Molly Marine Restoration Society in March 1999.



Adopt-a-school

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UROSEVAC, Kosovo — In July 1999, during a deployment to Kosovo with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), Lt. Col. Daniel P. Kelly, a history teacher for the Kerr-Vance Academy in Oxford, N.C., coordinated a sponsorship program with his school and the Perparini School located in the outskirts of Urosevac.



The Perparini School's facilities were ransacked by soldiers, leaving an environment unsuitable for children. After touring the school, a list was made of essential items needed to assist the school to begin operating again, according to Kelly.

More than a year later, Kelly continues to send supplies to the Perparini School.



Left: Lt. Col. Daniel P. Kelly, outside of the Peparini school, with some of the students from the school.

Above: Marines take precautionary measures by checking for mines around the Peparini school.

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WWII Vet visits 4th MarDiv Marines

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

New Orleans, La. — Marines from 4th Marine Division honored one of their former Marines with a gift presentation July 13 at 4th Mar. Div. Headquarters.

Sergeant William “Vito” Cerbone, who was in the mortar section of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines during World War II and saw action in the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, was presented a division history book, photograph, tie and belt buckle by Col. Karim Shihata, Chief of Staff, 4th Mar. Div., for his actions in World War II.

“I wish we could find all the guys like him and bring them here,” said Lt. Col. Frederick Cale, G-7, 4th Force Service Support Group. “It was great getting to talk to a man like that.”

After the presentation, Cerbone, a Bronze Star Medal winner, spoke briefly to the formation on the importance of Marines sticking together.

“You may not like the person next to you, but in combat they may become your best friend,” Cerbone said.

Afterward, Cerbone spoke to several Marines about

some of the different experiences he had during combat in the Pacific.

As far as Cerbone could remember, his company landed on Iwo Jima in the second wave under extreme fire from the Japanese. “Our casualties were extremely heavy in the meat grinder,” he recalled.

By the time 4th Mar. Div. was relieved by the 3rd Mar. Div., there were no more officers in his company, and he had spent time as the weapons platoon commander and the company commanding officer.

“I remember when we scored a one-round-hit on a Japanese rocket launcher position,” Cerbone said. “It was only a hundred yards away so it wasn’t that big a deal.”

He also remembered how small the beach was when his unit landed on Tinian.

“The beach on Tinian was so small we could only land two tractors at time,” the veteran recalled.

Cerbone was very excited about getting the chance to visit with the 4th Mar. Div. Marines. “I’m glad I finally got the nerve to come here; they looked like a fine bunch of Marines.



Col. Karim Shihata, Chief of Staff, 4th Marine Division introduces World War II veteran, Sgt. William Cerbone to the 4th Mar. Div. Marines.

Change of Command

Sgt. Michelle Day

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

SAN BRUNO, Calif. — Marines of the 23rd Marine Regiment honored their Commanding Officer, Col. Rex Estilow, during a change of command ceremony for the 23rd Marine Regiment. Col. Estilow, who has been the Commanding Officer for the regiment since July 1998, is being assigned as the Chief for Central Command current operations for the Joint Chief of Staff at the Pentagon, Washington D.C.

The 23rd Marines’ new Commanding Officer, Col. John Ledoux, joins the Regiment from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.



During the change of command ceremony, Maj. Gen. Arnold Punaro gives outgoing Commanding Officer, Colonel Estilow, a memento from the respective regimental commanding officers for Marine Forces Reserve.

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FOCUS ON THE FORCE



Marine Corps Band New Orleans entertains spectators with patriotic music before the start of the New Orleans Saints' Black and Gold scrimmage.

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

THIBODAUX, La. — Fans attending the New Orleans Saints' annual Black and Gold scrimmage at Nicholls State University, here not only had the opportunity to see their favorite players run drills, they also got to see the Marine Corps show off some of what it can do.

Marines from Marine Forces Reserve and 8th Marine Corps Recruiting District gave fans a taste of Marine life by performing in the joint service color guard for the game and setting up a static display. The Marine Corps Band New Orleans was also there, performing for the crowd.

The static display, set up by Marines from Weapons Company, 3rd

Battalion, 23rd Marines and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775, allowed spectators to look at High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, an AH-1W Super Cobra Helicopter, UH-1N Huey Helicopter and many weapons including the tube-launched optically-tracked wire-guided missile weapons, 81 mm mortar, M-2 .50 caliber machine gun, M-240G machine gun and M-16A2 service rifle.

"The helicopters were cool," Blaise Dusenber, a 10-year-old spectator, said. "I wish they would let me fly one."

The joint service color guard performed for the crowd

during the singing of the national anthem.

"It was awesome," Cpl. Brandon Johnson, color sergeant for the joint service color guard, said. "I love being the center of attention like that."

"The Marines looked really sharp out there," John Steward, Jr., spectator and former Marine, said. "They did a great job in the color guard."

Marine Corps recruiters were also on hand. They passed out information and held a chin-up challenge.

"I think everything went well for us here," Lance Cpl. Jonathan Campell, Weapons Co., 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines, said. "We had a lot of people come and look at our gear and ask us questions about the Marine Corps."

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The Joint Service Color Guard, including Marines from 4th Marine Division, New Orleans, present colors during the national anthem before the New Orleans Saints' Black and Gold scrimmage.

Corrections — In our Winter/Spring issue of the Continental Marine, we identified the Toys for Tots coordinator for the Rock Island, Ill., I-I staff as Gunnery Sgt. Fidel V. Garcia when the Toys for Tots coordinator is Gunnery Sgt. Everette G. Pfennig. In our Spring/ Summer

issue we identified four aircraft as F/A-18 Hornets when they are actually U.S. Air Force Reserve A-10 Thunderbolt II's. We apologize for the errors.

Continental Marine Staff

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